

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 523

By Massey

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Elijah Regen Morris of Gatlinburg.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the untimely passing of Regen Morris; and

WHEREAS, every so often, an individual is appreciated and loved in such a way that it unites an entire community. One such young man was Regen Morris, who lived his life with joy, grace, determination, and a deep appreciation for those around him, qualities he continued to exhibit after he was diagnosed with brain cancer; and

WHEREAS, Regen was deeply loved by his community, which united in his support. The "Rootin' for Regen" slogan became a rallying cry for thousands of people who joined together to show their support and appreciation for this inimitable young man; and

WHEREAS, Regen, who was a student at Pi Beta Elementary School, was diagnosed at the age of eleven with anaplastic astrocytoma, a form of brain cancer rarely found in individuals so young; and

WHEREAS, his courage and indomitable spirit, and the love and support of his parents, Dan and Tishia Maples Morris, helped him face the diagnosis and the resulting treatments with aplomb; and

WHEREAS, Regen Morris was an active and devout member of the First Baptist Sevierville Church, which he served faithfully; and

WHEREAS, though he departed this world at the tender age of twelve, Regen left behind an indelible legacy of compassion, courage, and joy, and it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional young man; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Elijah Regen Morris, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Regen Morris.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.